

**Brian J. Raymond**  
Director  
Technology Policy

October 19, 2011

Chairman Julius Genachowski  
Commissioner Michael Copps  
Commissioner Robert McDowell  
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, S.W.  
Washington, DC 20554

**Re: *Connect America Fund*, WC Docket No. 10-90; GN Docket No. 09-51**

Dear Mr. Chairman and Commissioners:

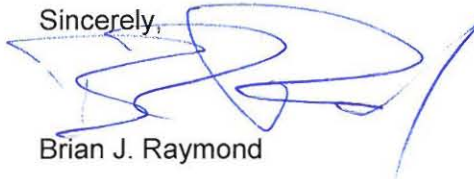
On behalf of the National Association of Manufacturers (NAM), the nation's largest industrial trade association representing manufacturers in every industrial sector and in all 50 states, we support your efforts to examine how reform of the Universal Service Fund (USF) and the Intercarrier Compensation (ICC) system can encourage broadband infrastructure deployment to unserved and underserved areas.

The U.S. manufacturing sector has derived tremendous benefits from our nation's telecommunications innovations. Moving away from the early days of simple voice calls transferred over copper wires, today's manufacturers utilize VoIP calls, email and instant messaging services, with information and data racing over high-speed fiber optic networks. From the cost-savings of Internet Protocol-based communications to just-in-time manufacturing, high-speed broadband access has made the world a smaller place allowing even the smallest of businesses to operate on a global scale.

Our nation's future economic growth depends on the continued ability of businesses and individuals to easily secure broadband services. Those consumers and businesses without access to wired and wireless broadband technology are unable to reap the benefits and leverage the products and services of manufacturers. The current USF and ICC system unfortunately are outdated and need to be modernized to keep pace with these 21st century demands. The proposed Connect America Fund will support the buildout of the broadband infrastructure to those underserved Americans.

The NAM is strongly supportive of increased deployment of high-speed Internet services and an Internet that is free from regulation. At this critical time in our nation's economy, high-speed voice, video and data services provide limitless opportunities for manufacturers to innovate and create jobs.

Sincerely,



Brian J. Raymond

*Leading Innovation. Creating Opportunity. Pursuing Progress.*